



U.S. Department of Transportation

SITUATION REPORT, ESF #1 - TRANSPORTATION

*Red Label: indicates a required field.

OPERATIONAL STATUS

Agency: DOT

*Op Status: Yellow - Disruption or other than normal operations

*Report #: DOT-HQ-04

*Related Event: Seattle Earthquake, 7.0 magnitude

Status as of: 02/28/2001 at 17:52

Region/Office: Headquarters

Distribution Level: Open - For Public Release

Situation Summary: A 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Seattle at 1:55 p.m. EST. The epicenter is located 30 miles SW of Seattle, WA, between Olympia and Bremerton. The earthquake depth of 22.2 miles is similar to the depth of the 1949 earthquake - no aftershocks occurred then and none are expected with this quake. Initial reports do not indicate major damage. There are approximately 18,000 customers without power. Several Washington State office buildings were evacuated. The Governor is working from the Emergency Operations Center. The President, the FEMA Director and Congressional Delegates are traveling to Seattle tonight. A large amount of minor damage exists throughout the region, particularly to older buildings. The earthquake was also felt strongly in Vancouver, BC at the Pacific Region headquarters building. The building is presently undergoing engineering inspection to ensure its safety. There is no apparent damage to any Canadian transportation resources. No damage has been reported to any transportation infrastructure as of this time in Vancouver. General Services Administration is sending engineers to Seattle to inspect Federal buildings. The Governor of Washington declared a State of Emergency for western Washington,

TRANSPORTATION IMPACT

Air: Seattle airport (SEA/TAC) is open for all departures, and for arrivals for aircraft that do require fueling. Although there is no reported damage to the airport fueling system, the system is undergoing inspection, and fuel is currently not available. Windows in the Air Traffic Control Tower are damaged. Minor injuries occurred in the terminal due to falling ceiling tiles. Damage is currently being assessed at the terminal facilities. Air traffic facilities are all operational. Currently 18 flight diversions for Seattle bound aircraft were received. There is a ground stop at SEA/TAC, meaning all aircraft on the ground remain in place. Aircraft enroute to SEA/TAC have been diverted. Seattle air route center is fully operational. Portland airport is open, and reports no damage. The FAA Northwest Mountain Regional Operations Center have been evacuated and operations transferred to West Pacific Regional Operations

Center in Los Angeles.

Boeing Aircraft Co's airfield has been closed, however this is not a commercial airport.

Rail: Burlington Northern is conducting a track inspection in 220 mile radius of the epicenter.

Union Pacific is conducting a track inspection in a 100 mile radius of the epicenter.

No reports of injuries at this time.

Amtrak service is temporarily halted for track inspections. Delays of 4-6 hours are expected.

Highways: Unusually high traffic volumes are being experienced in the area. There has been no bridge damage, however, expansion joints have raised up on several bridges. Bridge damage is mainly restricted to guard rails. All bridges are reported to be open.

All Interstate Freeways are open, with no major damage to local roads. Washington State reports land slides have closed county and state highway roadways.

US Highway 2 across Stevens Pass is closed for both east and west bound traffic near Gold Bar due to damage to the "Big Eddy" bridge, which reportedly dropped several inches.

The on and off ramps from 4th Avenue south (near the stadiums) to I-90 are closed for inspection.

SR 18 is closed at 208th Street because several semi-trucks have rolled over.

Marine: A ferry was approaching the Seattle downtown dock at the time of the earthquake. It pulled back from the dock and is awaiting clearance to reapproached once the dock is inspected. It is uncertain whether the port will be closed.

The Coleman Dock has been closed due to pavement buckling, all other are reportedly open.

The Captain of the Port (COTP) has not made a port closure determination. All pier structures are being assessed. The COTP has ordered inbound vessels to go to anchor. All moored vessels are to remain moored. Building #1 located at Pier 36 was evacuated; some structural damage identified.

Transit: Bus transportation is normal. The tunnel under the viaduct was not damaged. The monorail in Seattle is operating and is being used to move people out of the area as needed. The system was closed down for about 40 minutes after the earthquake in order to ensure its operability.

All FTA employees in the area are OK.

Pipelines: Olympic Pipeline and Williams Natural Gas companies are shut down while their systems are being inspected.

The Office of Pipeline Safety (RSPA/OPS) in Denver, CO is contacting pipeline operators in the area affected by the earthquake. Both companies have dispatched employees to patrol their pipeline for leak indications and Olympic is checking their storage tanks for damage. Kinder Morgan, GATX and Chevron all report no pipeline integrity problems. Phone line

disruptions to the area are hampering communications, but early reports indicate no serious pipeline problems. OPS is currently unable to make contact with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to obtain a report on the status of state regulated intrastate facilities, namely, natural gas distribution pipelines. There have been no reports of any damage to pipeline facilities.

**Motor Carrier
Safety:**
**Highway Traffic
Safety:**

ACTIONS TAKEN

What actions have been taken? The DOT headquarters CMC is partially staffed. FEMA has activated the Emergency Support Team - ESF-1 Transportation will be represented.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS

International transportation incidents: Transport Canada reports that there were windows broken at the Vancouver, BC airport but the facility is operational. No problems have been reported affecting the National Civil Aviation Transportation System in Vancouver Flight Information Region.

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Attachments: None

Source(s): RETREP Region 10, Region 9, FAA, USCG, FTA, FHWA, RSPA/OPS, FRA, Transport Canada and the new media